

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. 051252-5028

Application No. 09/474,766

Page 5

REMARKS

Applicants have reviewed the Office Action issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office dated 26 June 2000. Claims 1, 5, 8, 12, and 15-17 have been amended (claim 5 has been amended only as to matters of form). Thus, claims 1-17 remain pending in the application, and are submitted for reconsideration by the Examiner.

The drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.84(p)(5) for not including various reference signs. Applicant proposes amending the drawing figures as shown in the Request for Approval of Drawing Changes filed concurrently herewith, and amending the specification to correct typographical errors. It is respectfully submitted that these amendments overcome the objections. Approval of the proposed drawing amendments is earnestly solicited. No new matter has been added.

The specification was objected to due to various minor informalities. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification overcome these informalities, and these objections should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 6, and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed. The drawings, which constitute part of the disclosure of the invention (see page 2, line 28 to page 3, line 2), illustrate an arrangement of a guide disk 78 and a swirl disk 80 with respect to an armature 46 and an inlet portion 60. It is respectfully submitted that at least the drawings fully enable the features recited in claims 5, 6, and 10. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that these rejections are in error and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 8, 9, and 11-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,188,297 to Asano in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,434,766 to Matsuoka et al. (Matsuoka). Claims 7 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asano and Matsuoka, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,188,297 to Virchow. These rejections are respectfully traversed in view of the above amendments and the following comments.

Independent claim 1 recites a combination of features including a "circumferential surface including a first zone and a second zone that are connected by an intermediate zone extending substantially perpendicular to the first and second zones, the intermediate zone